

### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION 255 ROSENBAUM AVENUE MERIDIAN MS 39309-5003

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Meridian

Subj: Welcome Aboard

- 1. Welcome to the Navy Meridian Hurricane and Evacuation Relief Center. During normal operations, Naval Air Station, Meridian is a Navy training facility that provides Sailors, Marines, and regional law enforcement officer's skills required in their day-to-day jobs. The most recognized mission at this base is training jet pilots to become Carrier Strike Naval Aviators. This is the mission of our tenant command, Training Air Wing ONE. Another tenant command, Naval Technical Training Center, trains young Sailors to be administration professionals. MATSS-1 trains young Marines to be experts in aviation logistics. The Regional Counterdrug Training Academy is a state of the art facility for education and training of regional law enforcement officers on the latest law enforcement techniques and procedures, including counter-terrorism operations.
- 2. I am sure you will find the staff and personnel here at the Naval Air Station helpful, cooperative, and place a high value on courteously providing for your needs. Please take advantage of all we have to offer. I ask that you treat our base as your own and respect those who are serving you, for they are doing their best to make you feel at home. We hope to make your stay a welcomed one.

R. P. KNIGHT

Captain, U. S. Navy Commanding Officer

# Meridian and Surrounding Area

Meridian, which lies 15 miles southwest of the naval air station, is a progressive and rapidly growing city. When pressed for a one-word description of the city, natives and visitors alike would probably choose "friendly." Others describe Meridian as "beautiful," "accessible" and "a good place to raise a family."

Centrally located in the Southeast, Meridian is 155 miles southwest of Birmingham, Alabama; 90 miles east of Jackson, Mississippi; 247 miles northeast of New Orleans, Louisiana; and 180 miles north of Pensacola, Florida.

Airline, bus and train services are available. Modern highways criss-cross the rolling countryside, leading to major surrounding cities and numerous recreation and historical sites.

Many industries have chosen the area as home because of the strategic location for transportation purposes and excellent local labor force. Major categories of manufacturing are wood, metal fabrication, electronic equipment, aircraft parts, insulation board, furniture, paper and print products.

The City of Meridian is home for approximately 40,000 people. Many homes are located on rolling terrain, graced by native pines and hardwoods. There are a variety of local housing choices with reasonable rental rates and purchase prices. Numerous motels serve the many visitors and newcomers.

The Meridian Public School (MPS) District is the twelfth largest in the State of Mississippi. MPS serves more than 6,700 students in grades K - 12. The Lauderdale County School District provides educational opportunities for approximately 6,500 students. The Meridian area is also served by several private/parochial/Christian schools. Opportunities in higher education are offered on the Meridian Community College (MCC) campus. The fully accredited college offers both day and night courses. In addition, a degree-granting campus of Mississippi State University is located next door to MCC, enabling students to take third and fourth year college courses or earn a master's degree.

The Grand Opera House MSU-Riley Performing Arts Center renovations should be completed in 2006, when a grand opening celebration is planned. With three general care hospitals serving the area, Meridian is a medical center for all of eastern Mississippi and western Alabama. There also is a mental health clinic, a hearing and speech clinic and a state mental hospital.

There are over 200 churches representing 40 denominations located in the city.

Lauderdale County and the surrounding area are served by a daily newspaper, The Meridian Star, and several weekly community papers.

Cable television facilities are available, and there are numerous local radio and TV stations.

United Artist Theaters at Bonita Lakes Mall provides first-run feature films on numerous screens with state-of-the-art sound.

Meridian has a large chapter of the Navy League of the United States, which is responsible for awarding scholarships to Meridian Community College to deserving dependents of enlisted (active duty or retired) personnel or NJROTC cadets. They also present the annual "Flight Instructor of the Year" and "Military Citizen of the Year" awards. The "Golden Stick" award, sponsored by the Meridian Area Navy League and local businesses and individuals, is presented to the top student naval aviator in each winging class.

The local entertainment and art scene offers exceptional opportunities not often found in a town of Meridian's size. The Meridian Little Theatre presents four plays each season. Many military personnel have appeared on stage or worked behind the scenes; newcomers are always welcome.

Local musicians and singers combine their talents to form the 65-piece Meridian Symphony Orchestra and the Meridian Symphony Chorus.

The Meridian Art Museum is open year round and features local and area artists. Amusements and tourist attractions in the area cater to both the young and the "young at heart."

Annually Meridian hosts the State Games of Mississippi which brings almost 4,000 amateur athletes to town for the two-weekend-long Olympic style competition. Highland Park, home of one of only two working Dentzel carousels built in the 1890s, is the location of the Jimmie Rodgers' Museum honoring the famed "Singing Brakeman" of the 1920s often referred to as "the father of country music."

Merrehope, a beautiful restored antebellum home, and the Frank W. Williams home, a restored Victorian house circa 1886, are both open daily for tours. First opened in 1890, The Grand Opera House of Mississippi was the most spectacular stage of its time in the South. Lauded as the South's only second-level opera house, efforts have begun to restore it to its original state.

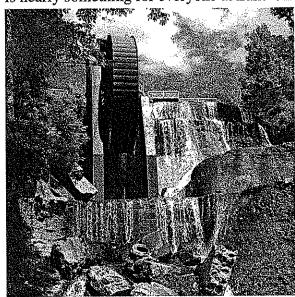
The Sam Dale Memorial Park and monument, located in Daleville, was built to honor the famous historic Indian fighter.

The surrounding area is steeped in history. Civil War battlefields and other sites can be visited easily in a day. The Vicksburg National Military Park is 120 miles west of Meridian, and the Shiloh National Military Park lies about 200 miles to the north. Other nearby places of interest to Civil War buffs include Jefferson Davis' home, Selma, Mobile Bay and several Confederate cemeteries.

The Natchez Trace National Parkway was once an Indian path, then a wilderness road, between Natchez, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. From 1800 to 1830, it became a highway binding the old Southwest to the Union. The Natchez Trace was a vital factor in the growth of the Southeast and our nation. Today, historic markers, exhibits and trails explain why this frontier has been remembered and will help you understand its history.

Thanks to its hospitable climate, Mississippi is one of America's great "outdoor" states.

Near Meridian, there are some 4,000 acres in the upper reaches of the Lake Okatibbee reservoir area that are licensed to the Mississippi Fish and Game Commission as a game management area for public hunting. Okatibbee also provides fantastic fishing opportunities and is a boaters' paradise. Swimming, fishing, picnicking, camping — there is nearly something for everyone at Lake Okatibbee.



Beautiful Dunn's Falls, located along the Chunky River 11 miles south of Meridian, is open daily Wednesday through Sunday. It features a 65-foot waterfall, a swimming area, trails, a gristmill, and is a great place for a picnic.

The mild temperature is reflected in the numerous open-air events held here throughout the year, which are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. A few of these include: Arts in the Park each April in Meridian, the Ralph Morgan Rodeo each April and August in Lauderdale; the Jimmie Rodgers' Music Festival each May in Meridian; Juneteenth, held on a "teenth" Saturday in June in Meridian; the Mardi

Gras Block Party and Parade occurs on the weekend before Mardi Gras in Meridian; the Threefoot Art Fesitval on the second Saturday of October in Meridian; the Choctaw Indian Fair, a thrilling taste of American Indian life, held in July on the Pearl River Reservation near Philadelphia; and "The World's Largest House Party," the Neshoba County Fair, also held in July in Philadelphia.

The arts and crafts fair, held in May and October in Canton, Mississippi, is another event you won't want to miss.

In addition, Mississippi offers nature trails and lovely gardens wherever you might choose to wander. Rock hounds will delight in the world's second largest petrified forest, located in Flora, Mississippi.

The East Mississippi Business Development Corporation (EMBDC), the local chamber and economic development office, provides information to newcomers as well as demographic information to prospective businesses to our area. It also supports the naval air station in many ways in addition to providing staff support for the Meridian Area Navy League. For more information, contact the EMBDC at (601) 693-1306.

For visitor information, the Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau may be reached at 1-888-868-7720.

Familiar, nostalgic, historic, unusual, relaxing or exciting -- it's all right here in Mississippi, and it's yours for the asking all year 'round.

As you can see, Meridian has much to offer, but to sum up the atmosphere in one word, it's definitely "friendly."

### PAY PHONE LOCATIONS AT NAS

## Pay Phones are located in the following areas:

Telephone trailer, located near Security has approximately 50 phones.

Main Exchange

**NEX Service Station** 

BEQ 201 1st floor lobby by vending

BEQ 202 1st floor lobby by vending

BEQ 206 1st floor lobby by door

CBQ 218 1st floor left of lobby

Bowling Alley at front entrance

Supply School at right of main hall

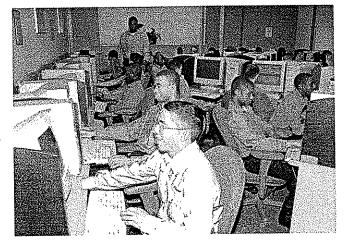
Admin School 1st floor at vending

Phone cards are available for purchase at all NEX locations.

## **COMPUTERS**

### AVAILABLE AT NAS

Liberty Center, located in the NAS Library, has numerous computers with e-mail capability.



### **MWR FACILITIES**

Fitness Center Phone: 601-679-2379/2367/3384

## **Hours of Operation**

<u>April – September</u>

Monday-Friday: 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

<u>October – March</u>

Monday-Friday: 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, Suiday & Hondays. 9 a.m. 0 p.m.

## McCain Lanes Rec Center Phone: 601-679-2651

**Hours of Operation** 

Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday & Holidays: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Golf Course Phone: 601-679-2129

**Hours of Operation** 

Daily: 7 a.m.-Sunset

Liberty Center Phone: 601-679-2623

**Hours of Operation** 

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday & Sunday: Noon-6 p.m.

**Closed Holidays** 

**Rudders** Phone: 601-679-2636

**Hours of Operation** 

**Sunday - Thursday:** 3:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. **Friday & Saturday:** 3:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Holidays: 3:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND/OR FAMILIES, PLEASE CALL 601-679-3751/2379

## NAVY EXCHANGE FACILITIES

Main Store/Uniform Shop Ph: 601-679-2665 Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

Barber Shop/Beauty Shop Ph: 601-679-2641

**Hours of Operation** 

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: 12:30-5 p.m.

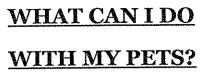
Country, Package & Video Rental Store Ph: 601-679-2568 Hours of Operation

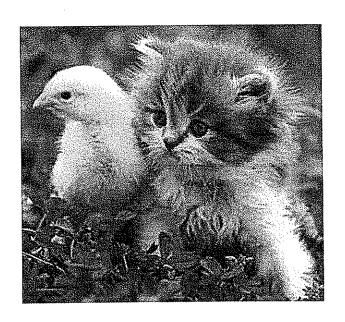
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday & Sunday: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Gas Station Ph: 601-679-2664
Hours of Operation

Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Gasoline can be purchased with credit cards 24 hours per day.)

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT EXTENDED HOURS AT NEX FACILITIES, PLEASE CALL 601-679-2568





Adams Animal Hospital	Hwy 45 & Hwy 39N	601-483-1411
Critter Sitter Boarding Kennel	8884 Hwy 19N	601-626-0088
Pet Priority Boarding Kennel	170 Dees Rd.	601-483-4001
Pet Services	5010-A Poplar Springs Dr.	601-693-3940
Poplar Springs Animal Hospital	4915 Poplar Springs Dr.	601-693-7333
Seal Laird Vet Hospital	2319 Hwy 19N	601-482-3125

## PLACES TO EAT ON BASE

### MEAN GENE'S

(Located inside McCain Rec Center) Phone: 601-679-3388

Monday-Thursday: 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Friday-Saturday: 6:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday/Holidays: 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

### SAND TRAP

(Located at Ponta Creek Golf Course) Phone: 601-679-2780

7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### MOM'S DINER

(Located near McCain Field) Phone: 601-679-2531

Monday-Thursday: 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Friday: 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday/Sunday/Holidays: Closed

### **POST OFFICE**

Phone: 601-679-2580

### **Hours of Operation**

<u>Monday – Friday</u> 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### CITIZENS' NATIONAL BANK

Phone: 601-679-2585

### **Hours of Operation**

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **ATM**

Always Available (Except for a few minutes at 2:00 p.m.)

## NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Phone: 601-679-1127

### **Hours of Operation**

<u>Monday – Friday</u> 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **ATM**

Located at the Navy Exchange Complex.
Always Available
(Except for a few minutes at 1:00 p.m.)

## MOVIES OFF BASE AT BONITA LAKES MALL

Bonita Lakes Circle Call 601-485-5009 for schedule information

#### SKATE ODYSSEY

3435 North Hills Call 601-483-9654 for information.

## **ULTIMATE FUN WORLD**

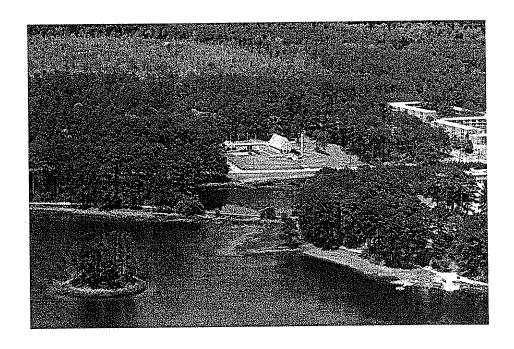
2413 North Hills Call 601-485-4263 for information.

## OTHER OFF BASE PLACES OF INTEREST

Check with ITT (601-679-3773), located in the NAS Library, for off-base places of interest and possible discount tickets.

Please see community handouts for more info.

## **CHAPEL SERVICES**



All Faiths Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass Sunday at 5 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Lunch 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Call (601) 679-3635.

## CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

All evacuees are reminded that they are <u>REQUIRED</u> to check out at the Housing Office, Bldg. 423, before departing NAS Meridian.

We hope we were able to make your stay as pleasant as possible!

Don't forget!

Please check out with NAS Meridian Evacuation Headquarters personnel before you head home.

## **BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC**

Navy Branch Health Clinic Meridian provides primary care, and limited specialty care and diagnostic testing for Active Duty and TRICARE Prime patients. With a staff of 10 providers and 60 support personnel, Navy Branch Health Clinic Meridian records approximately 28,000 annual outpatient visits.

#### **PHONE NUMBERS**

Medical 601-679-2633

Dental 601-679-2633

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday -Friday 7 a.m.- 4 p.m.

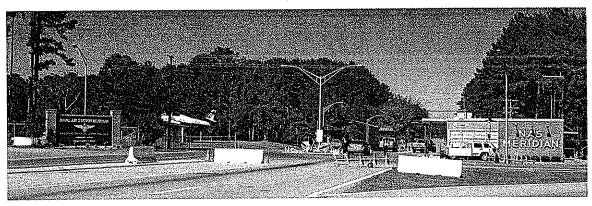
Saturday/Sunday and Holidays Closed

After Work Hours: Primary Care Manager 601-679-2232

For non-emergent care after hours, TRICARE Prime enrollees are referred to one of several approved after-hours clinics in Meridian, after authorization from TRICARE or the Medical Officer of the Day.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Appointments are made through the Central Appointment Clerk at 1-877-879-1621.



# History

On July 16, 1957, the first shovel of earth was thrown, marking the beginning of Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Meridian, which was commissioned July 14, 1961. Captain W.F. Krantz received the golden key to the air station, and senior Mississippi U.S. Senator John C. Stennis was the guest speaker for the ceremony that opened the \$60 million base. At that time the operations area was named McCain Field in honor of the late Admiral John S. McCain of Teoc, Mississippi.

Training Squadron Seven (VT-7) arrived at NAAS Meridian July 12, 1961, then split on December 15 to form its sister squadron, Training Squadron Nine (VT-9). NAAS Meridian continued to grow, and by July 1968, the station became a full naval air station. The years brought an increase in building development and family housing units. In 1968, and again in 1969, 300 aircraft from Pensacola arrived to escape the fury and destruction of Hurricane Gladys and Hurricane Camille, respectively.

In August 1971, Training Air Wing One (TW-1) was commissioned and Training Squadron Nineteen (VT-19) was established. The Wing motto became "Readiness for Victory at Sea through Training." That October saw the arrival of the TA-4J, the new advanced jet trainer based on the A-4 "Skyhawk."

In April 1973, President Richard M. Nixon, accompanied by Senator John C. Stennis and many other high-ranking military and civilian officials, attended the dedication of the new Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC), known locally as the Stennis Center. It was officially commissioned April 17, 1974.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian was selected and upgraded to a Major Shore Command on October 1, 1982. In March 1984, NAS Meridian was one of 15 installations chosen for the Department of Defense Model Installation Program.

In September 1985, the enlisted galley was dedicated to the memory of Marine Lance Corporal Roy M. Wheat, a Mississippi native and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in Vietnam.

In 1986, Navy Meridian officially adopted two Lauderdale County schools, Northeast Elementary and Northeast High School, as part of the civilian and DoD Adopta-School Program. In 1993, the new Northeast Middle School also was adopted.

In 1987, outlying field "Bravo" was renamed after Captain Joe W. Williams, Jr., NAS Meridian's second commanding officer and the recipient of the Navy Cross.

The Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) was established in 1992. Operated by the Mississippi National Guard, it provides "street-level" counterdrug training to civilian law enforcement officers primarily from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

In July 1994, Training Squadron Twenty-Three (VT-23) moved from Kingsville, Texas, to NAS Meridian.

In October 1997, the newly renovated Combined Bachelor Quarters was dedicated and named in memory of Ensign Jesse L. Brown, a Hattiesburg, Mississippi, native, who was the first African American naval aviator and also the first African American naval officer to lose his life in combat.

1st Lt. Karen Fuller Tribbett received "Wings of Gold" on October 17, 1997, becoming the first female strike pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In October 1998, VT-19 was re-designated VT-9.

The TA-4J "Skyhawk" was retired in 1999. In December of that year, VT-7 assumed the advanced training mission using the T-45C "Goshawk," the Navy's newest jet trainer. At that time, VT-23 was disestablished.

Following the closure of Naval Reserve Center Jackson, Naval Reserve Center Meridian opened July 15, 2000, and had its first drill weekend two weeks later, one month before its official dedication ceremony, August 26.

On August 18, 2000, Marine Aviation Training Support Group was re-designated Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One.



In June 2003, the library was dedicated and named in memory of Lieutenant Junior Grade Andrew Triplett, a Shuqualak, Mississippi, native, who was killed during the terrorist attack on the USS Cole (DDG-67) in Aden, Yemen, on October 12, 2000.

In July 2004, the last T-2C "Buckeye" left NAS Meridian marking the end of Navy strike pilot training in that aircraft. Two months later the Search and Rescue mission was divested.

Over the years, NAS Meridian has become a refuge for both aircraft and people who have been evacuated from the coast because of hurricanes. As early as September 1965, hundreds of planes from Florida bases arrived to escape the wrath of Hurricane Betsy.

Recently, there have been several evacuations.

During the Gulf Coast evacuation for Hurricane Andrew in August 1992, NAS provided transient support for 53 TH-57 helicopters from NAS Whiting Field that were en-route to NAS Memphis; additionally, temporary housing for more than 1,000 evacuated military personnel and dependents was also provided.

More than 50 aircraft from NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola were flown to Meridian in June of 1995, when Hurricane Allison threatened the Gulf Coast.

In 1995, the station also provided shelter for more than 1,000 personnel during Gulf Coast evacuations as a result of Hurricane Erin in August and Hurricane Opal in October. In September 1998, the station sheltered more than 1,000 personnel escaping the effects of Hurricane Georges on the Gulf Coast.

During Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, nearly 1,000 evacuees (and more than 200 pets) from the Gulf Coast found a safe haven at NAS. McCain Field also provided refueling services for 100 H-57's from Whiting Field that were going to and from their evacuation site in Millington.

August 2005 brought Hurricane Katrina to the Gulf Coast. NAS Meridian provided safe haven for 1,000 military and family members who were evacuated from that region. The station also hosted FEMA, who set up their Mississippi Operational Area on board. FEMA received and dispatched 3,000 trucks loaded with supplies during their relief efforts. Also, the U. S. Public Health Service utilized half of Hangar One to establish a 500-bed Federal Emergency Contingency Unit. It was designed to provide non-acute care for patients transferred from hospitals to our south, where beds were needed for more critically ill patients.

NAS Meridian and its tenant commands participate regularly in community service.
Organizations supported include Special Olympics, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity and various local schools, just to name a few. Additionally, several commands participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

The main base of NAS Meridian occupies more than 8,000 acres of land, with an additional 4,000 acres at Joe Williams Field and the target facility SEARAY. The size of NAS Meridian may be compared to that of other major naval air stations such as NAS Pensacola, Fla., which has about 5,000 acres.

5,000 acres.

The theme "Navy Meridian, Pride of the South" reflects the superb teamwork that exists between the base and the Meridian community.

# NAS MERIDIAN PET REGISTRATION

Pet Owner's Name:
Pet Owner's NAS Meridian Location (i.e., Bldg #, Room #, Phone #):
Home Address:
Duty Station:
Home Phone:
Kind/Breed of Pet:
Pet's Name:
<b>Owner's:</b> Please complete one form for each pet. The form will be attached to the pet's kennel. Owners are responsible for feeding, watering and general care of their pets, to include clean-up. Pets are required to be on a leash when owner's are walking them.
Owner's Signature

EVACUEE REGISTRATION RECORD		
Print all entries. Provide all information requested. Prior to completion of form, see privacy statement below.		
1. Sponsor Information: a. Name:(last, first, mi) b. Rank/Rate/Paygrade c. ssn # e. age d. sex		
a. Name.(last, mst, m)		
e. Status: (active, reserve, retired) f. Unit g. Phone: Home Work Cell		
h. Home Address: (street, city state, zip code)  i. Email Address:		
2. Spouse Information: a. Name:(last, first, mi) b. Address (if different than above) c. Phone: Home Work Cell		
3. Dependant Information:		
a. Name b. Relationship c. age		
4. Person to be contacted in case of an Emergency:  a. Name b. Address (street, city state, zip code) c. Phone: Home Work Cell		
5. Safe Haven Information:		
a. Type of housing: b. Address of safe haven: c. Contact number at Safe Haven:		
d. Current location of dependants safe haven if different from Sponsor (street, city state, zip code):		
e. Type of safe haven housing at dependant location if different:		
6. The following information is required if evacuation is greater than 48 hours:		
a. Medical Status of Sponsor? b. Medical status of Dependants? c. Have received evacuation TAD orders?		
d. Do you have transportation? e. Do you have school age children? f. Are they enrolled in school?		
g. Address of temporary school: (street, city state, zip code)		
h. Do you have access to your Bank account?  I. Are you getting Direct Deposit?		

## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT FOR EVACUEE REGISTRATION RECORD

- 1. AUTHORITY TO REQUEST INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS DEVRIVED FROM 5 UNITED STATES CODE 301, DEPARTMENTAL REGUALATIONS.
- 2. INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:
  - A. TO FACILITATE THE ORDERLY ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAFE HAVEN.
  - B. TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING SPECIALIZED ATTENTION.
  - C. TO ALLOW NOTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.
  - D. TO PERMIT ADEQUATE PLANNING FOR FUTURE SHELTER FACILITIES.
- 3. DISCLOSURE IF THIS INFORMATION IS STRICILY VOLUNTARY BUT THE FULL COOPERATION OF ALL PERSONNNEL IS EARNESTLY SOLICITED. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL. YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SAFETY AND WELLFARE OF ALL PERSONS UTILITIZING OUR FACILITY IS APPREACIATED.